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Printing Information:

This is a 4/C, 3-panel brochure

Size: Flat: 8.5” x 11” (plus bleed) Folds: 3.73” x 8.5”
Number of Pages: One sheet prints two sides
Ink: 4/4

Recommendations:
Print on recycled white paper with enough opacity to prevent bleed through.
If printing on coated paper, use a varnish or aqueous coating.

What You Can Do

People who enjoy fishing and its related activities can help reduce the amount of debris that enters the oceans and other waterways by following these guidelines:

- Bring ALL of your trash back to shore for proper disposal in trash cans or recycling bins, including all pieces of fishing line and other fishing gear.
- Properly stow and secure waste materials on your boat so that it won't be blown or washed overboard.
- Collect pieces of fishing line and other trash that you see in or near the water and dispose of it properly.
- Follow the marine debris regulations required by Annex V of MARPOL. Remember that it is illegal to dispose of any plastic in all navigable waters of the United States and anywhere at sea.
- Encourage your tackle shops, docks, marinas, fishing piers and boat ramps to provide adequate trash cans and recycling bins for used line and other trash.
- Support environmentally responsible marinas.
- Serve as an example to others. Get involved in cleanups in your area and encourage others to help keep the oceans free of debris.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

FISHING AND MARINE DEBRIS

How Fishermen Can **Prevent Marine Debris**

What Is Marine Debris?

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration defines marine debris as any man-made object discarded, disposed of or abandoned that enters the coastal or marine environment.

Where Does It Come From?

All marine debris shares a common origin – people. In fact, people's mishandling of waste materials and other items constitutes the bulk of the marine debris problem. Most researchers traditionally classify marine debris as coming from **land**- or **ocean/waterway-based** sources.

Most **land-based** marine debris reaches the ocean when people carelessly discard trash while on land. The majority of **ocean/waterway-based** debris reaches the ocean when people improperly dispose of or stow their trash while onboard their boats and vessels.

Fishermen can contribute to the debris problem when they fail to retrieve fishing gear or improperly dispose of fishing-related trash.

Impacts of Marine Debris

Marine debris poses threats to fishermen, the fish they catch, and important fish habitat and breeding grounds.

Discarded or abandoned fishing equipment and other forms of debris can entangle, maim and cause many wildlife species to drown. Abandoned nets, plastic tarps, fishing gear and other debris can smother and crush sensitive ecosystems, many of which are essential fish habitat.

Fishing line, nets, rope and other trash can also wrap around boat propellers and clog seawater intakes, causing costly engine damage and becoming a safety hazard.

Working Toward Solutions

Prevention – changing the behavior that causes marine debris to enter the environment – is the only way to truly manage the marine debris pollution issue.

As part of this effort, monofilament manufacturer Pure Fishing and its subsidiary, Berkley, have established several monofilament recycling programs in the United States. These programs encourage fishermen to discard used fishing line in specially marked containers, which are returned to the manufacturers for recycling.

For more information about these programs, visit **www.berkley-fishing.com/about_conservation.php#brp** and **www.floridaconservation.org/mrrp/index.asp.**

Fishermen who fish from boats, marinas and docks must also observe Annex V of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL). MARPOL is an international treaty that prohibits the disposal of plastics anywhere in the ocean and restricts the disposal of most other types of solid waste. For more information on MARPOL, please see the NOAA resources guide at **www.marinedebris.noaa.gov.**